



ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
CROSS-COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS
November 9, 2006

The following members were present for the meeting: Board Member Liaison Craig Carr; Coaches Linda Brown, Petersburg PORTA; Nick D'Alfonso, East Peoria Central, Diane Stateman, Lemont Old Quarry; Mike Brehm, Paxton-Buckley-Loda, and Steve Huber, Elmwood. Also in attendance was Mr. Geza Ehrentreu who served as the head official at the 2006 meet, Steve Destri, meet manager for the IESA state meet, and Mr. Jerry Riebling, President of Mercury Sports Group, who presented information on chip scoring.

The IESA Cross-Country Advisory Committee, in its meeting of November 9, 2006, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for its January 19, 2007, meeting:

1. To add the following statement to By-Law 4.0324:

“Schools must submit their Sectional Entry Form online by 12 noon on the Wednesday preceding the sectional meet. Teams without official entries submitted by that date shall be disqualified from sectional competition.”

Rationale: This is similar language to the wrestling and track By-Laws. Host schools need these entry forms to prepare for their sectional meet. By requiring that it be submitted, responsibility rests with the school to insure compliance. Technology has made it very easy to complete the form. Completion of the form is not a difficult or demanding task.

2. To change By-Law 4.0325 so that there are eight Class A sectionals and nine Class AA sectionals. **Rationale: Currently, there are seven sectionals in each class. The number of schools that entered cross-country this year grew by 18 compared to last year. We have grown by 40 schools in four years. In some cases, the sectional meets had 15-16 teams assigned. This is simply too big for most schools to host. By adding sectionals, it will reduce the number of teams assigned to each sectional, hopefully making it more manageable for the host schools. Since Class A usually has fewer full teams than Class AA, the Class A coaches on the committee felt that eight sectionals would be better than going to nine as is being recommended for Class AA. Almost every Class AA team fields a full team. No changes are being recommended to the number of teams and/or individuals that qualify for the state meet. Those would remain at the top three teams and the top 5 individuals not on one of the three teams. If the above recommendation is passed the Class A meets would each have 208 runners and the Class AA meets would each have 234 runners. Currently each race has 182 runners.**
3. If recommendation #2 is passed, the committee recommends working with Mercury Sports Group to implement a chip scoring system. See enclosed proposals. The difference in the proposals has to do with an official time being given to the coaches in the results at the one mile mark. **Rationale: With over 200 runners in each race, it is becoming increasingly difficult to use the traditional chute system to accurately score the meet. Technology today allows “chips” to be used which in turn allows the runners to simply run through a finish line without having to worry about fitting through a chute and keeping the runners in order. Perhaps the biggest question is how to pay for the cost of the chip system.**

Exec. Dir. Note: Would the Board consider raising the cost of the cross-country entry fee \$5 to help offset this cost? By doing so, almost \$2000 of additional money would be generated. There is some precedent for doing something like this that I can explain to the Board during the meeting

4. To place all five individual qualifiers from a given sectional in the same starting box with the runners who finished 1, 2, 3 in the front of the box and places 4 and 5 in the back of the box. **Currently, we assign four runners to each box. Rationale: If recommendation #2 is approved, we will need additional starting boxes. Maxwell Park, with the current course layout, cannot accommodate too many more starting boxes. However, they will be able to accommodate the proposed increase. By having all the individual qualifiers in one box, it puts these runners on par with the teams who advance. Since a team that advances generally has 7 runners, they are not able to put all of their runners directly on the starting line. Some runners have to be behind their teammates because the starting boxes are only wide enough to accommodate 4 runners.**

Discussion was held regarding assessments by the host school; the overlap between the cross-country and girls basketball season; move the risers for the awards assembly to the center of the basketball court to allow more room; and the feasibility of a fence behind the starting line to keep spectators from the starting box area.

The next meeting of the committee is set for November 1, 2007